

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
March 29, 2004 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Bridle, William Sullivan, James Workman
Cliff Pratt
James Barrington, Town Manager
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant
ABSENT: Rick Griffin

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Captain James Sullivan led the audience in the flag salute.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Activities

The 9th Annual Easter Bunny Breakfast will take place on Saturday, April 3rd from 8-11AM at the American Legion on High Street; Hannaford will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd from 8-10AM; the Easter Egg Dig will take place on April 10th across from the Ashworth Hotel.

Event to Recognize Nancy Stiles

The Board announced that there will be a special recognition "Come Celebrate with Us" on April 16th at 6PM at the Inn of Hampton to recognize Nancy Stiles fifteen years as Food Director for the Hampton School District. Tickets are available by calling 926-6771. Mrs. Bridle suggested that the Board of Selectmen prepare a proclamation for Mrs. Stiles.

Food Pantries

Mrs. Bridle noted that all of the food pantries in town, as well as God's Baby Closet, are running very low on donations. She noted that between 80-90 people are being served each night at the soup kitchen.

Tragic Event in Town

Mr. Pratt reminded the Board that the Town had a tragic event last week with the death of an elderly resident. The prayers of the Board go out to the Garland family at this time. Mr. Pratt commended the Hampton Police Department with the professional way they handled the event. Mr. Pratt noted that the channel 22 slide for Service Link, which can provide information on caring for the elderly and how to report elder abuse should be updated with the number to call for information.

Lane Library

Mr. Workman announced that the Children's Room at the Lane Library is re-opened.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Aquarion Water Company

Mr. Barrington told the Board that Mr. Goetz of Aquarion Water Company has given him an unofficial notification that Keith Bossung is being replaced by Larry Bingaman as the new Vice President in charge of this area for Aquarion. That change will take place around April 1. Mr. Goetz has requested an appointment with the Board to share updates from Aquarion at the April 19 meeting.

Exeter Road Bridge

Mr. Barrington informed the Board that Mr. Bob Barry, from the DOT Highways and Bridges Division, called to discuss the Exeter Road Railroad Bridge project. The Department of Transportation has concerns about their budget as it relates to the scope of the project as it has developed to help straighten the intersection, and has decided that they want to simply replace the decking on the bridge. Mr. Barry indicated that they were interested in widening the bridge to the extent possible. Mr. Barrington said that he

raised the issue of ownership, pointing out that the Town would not be interested in taking over ownership of the bridge without the full redevelopment that had been part of the original agreement and Mr. Barry agreed to that stipulation. They also discussed the weight limit and the necessity to upgrade the load capacity. Mr. Barry agreed that the weight limit would need to be addressed. He further indicated that he would send a letter outlining DOT's position on the issues. Mr. Barrington notified CLD Engineers by phone and by letter that they should cease any activities that would generate additional costs until a final resolution is reached with DOT, and that they should begin putting together the paperwork necessary for the Town to bill DOT for reimbursement.

Boat Dock

Erin Rath, of Senator Gregg's office sent a note to Chief Lipe this week with notification that the boat dock appropriation has been assigned to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Mr. Barrington said that he expects to hear from them soon so the town can begin construction of the boat dock in Hampton Harbor.

Spring Yard Waste Collection

Public Works Director John Hangen has sent a memo to me concerning the proposed schedule for cleanup activities this spring. The annual leaf and soft yard waste collection would be the week of April 19. This does not include large limbs or brush. The Spring Cleanup would be the weeks of May 10 and May 17. I'll provide specific details of division of the town by week Monday evening. The second week will be the beach, as defined by everything south of Winnacunnet Road and east of the marsh. The first week will be the rest of town.

Revised Sewer Ordinance

Mr. Barrington told the Board that Mr. Hangen has been working with Wright-Pierce Engineers on some revisions to the sewer ordinance for some time and the revised ordinance should be ready for adoption in the near future. Mr. Barrington said that he will be reviewing the proposal with Mr. Hangen and Attorney Gearreald once again, and expects to be providing a copy for the Board to review in the near future. Due to the magnitude of the ordinance, Mr. Hangen may meet with the Board as an appointment to explain the changes and answer questions the Board may have prior to scheduling a public hearing.

Police Facility

Mr. Violette reports that activity at the police station is beginning to pick up with the improving weather. A concrete pour of almost half the lower level was made this week, and a larger pour is scheduled next week. There has been work by the interior tradesmen to prepare utilities for the floor slab. The first load of interior metal studs arrived for framing the interior walls. Mr. Barrington said that he expects to see increasing activity over the spring and summer heading toward the completion this fall.

Hampton Beach Commission

Mr. Barrington reported that the Hampton Beach Commission held its fifth Visioning session Thursday evening with a summary of the first four meetings and a recap. A brief video was prepared showing alternatives of economic development that could build the tax base of the town, thereby lowering everyone's tax bill. The meeting was also videotaped by Pete MacKinnon and Brad Jett for Channel 22. The tape has been placed in the School Special slot for broadcast. The Hampton Beach Commission will be meeting again on April 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Precinct Hall at the beach Fire Station.

SUSC Hearing

The Board of Tax and Land Appeals will be holding a hearing on the SUSC appeal on Tuesday and Wednesday. Attorney Gearreald and Assessor Bob Estey will be there representing the Town.

Pending Legislation

While the Hampton Board of Selectmen has had limited interest in the past in taking positions on pending legislation, there are a number of bills of which have been copied for the Board that bear review. Copies of HB 761, SB 357, and SB 407-FN-LOCAL were included in the Board's packets.

School Resource Office

Superintendent Gaylord called to let the Town Manager know that the WHS School Board shares his concern and desire to continue funding the School Resource Officer position at the high school. They have directed Superintendent Gaylord to bring them recommendations regarding the funding for that purpose. Mr. Barrington told the Board that he will keep the Board up to date on that matter.

Drakeside Road Pump Station

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he received a letter from Attorney Donahue regarding the lift station on Drakeside Road. The manager will be meeting with him later this week. Mr. Barrington said that they expect that the lift station will be complete and operating by April 9, 2004.

Legal Update

Mr. Barrington suggested that the Board of Selectmen schedule a non-meeting with Attorney Gearreald for 6:30 PM, April 5th to review the status of pending legal matters. The Board agreed.

Exeter Road Bridge

Mr. Sullivan asked the Town Manager to ask Chief Wrenn, Chief Lipe and Mr. Hangen at the next staff meeting what the impact to their operations would be if Exeter Road were to be closed for any period of a day for the replacement of the road bed.

Mr. Pratt noted that this is not the year for the town to be incurring additional overtime expenses to divert traffic. Mr. Pratt asked if the State replaces the beams and the road bed will they consider the project complete? Mr. Barrington said that because of the State budgetary concerns they are re-prioritizing and reallocating funds and are looking at a smaller scope for this project. They understand that they will likely maintain ownership of the bridge until the complete project is done. Mr. Workman said that the Board of Selectmen was criticized in a recent editorial for not taking action on the purchase of properties associated with the replacement of the bridge, but in this case it appears that haste would have made waste. Mr. Sullivan agreed that the Board did the right thing.

MS-2 Statement of Appropriations Voted

Mr. Pratt asked if the Town Manager could find out for next week how much the respective School Boards are going to provide as a grant to the Town to fund the School Resource Officers. Mrs. Bridle said that the Hampton School Board does not meet until April 12th. Mr. Barrington will speak with Superintendent Gaylord regarding what his recommendations will be to the Boards. Mr. Barrington told the Board that his initial thoughts had been based on the officers base salaries with benefits. There will need to be a discussion in regard to the special details that take place at the schools.

Mr. Sullivan said that he has received a lot of calls over the past week from residents concerned with the budget and special details. He noted that one caller in particular made him understand that closing the Transfer Station on Saturday and Sunday will be very difficult for many residents. Mr. Sullivan said that he would like the Board to reconsider keeping the Transfer Station open for 8 hours on the weekends without affecting any other area of the budget. Mrs. Bridle said that she would like to see the Transfer Station open on weekends, noting that the town provides a lot of services, but they are not convenient to most residents. The \$30,000 cost to keep it open on weekends can come from the funds that will likely be coming from the School Boards which have not been figured into the budget reductions. Mr. Sullivan said that if a detail is needed the funds need to be found.

Mr. Pratt suggested that a compromise could be to have the Transfer Station open for 6 hours a day on weekends, from 10 – 4, although he would have no problem keeping it open for 8 hours. Mr. Barrington said that when adjusting the budget he tried to balance everything. The concern was finding the funds for high priority details. He added that the Board of Selectmen can set the policy and he will see that the Transfer Station is open according to what the Board wishes. Mrs. Bridle asked if it were only to be open 4 hours on weekends, would the town be able to find people to work on the weekends. Mr. Barrington said that it would likely be different people than those currently are working on weekends.

Mr. Sullivan said that he does not want the public to feel as if they are being punished for not passing the budget. Mr. Pratt said he is not sure if residents voted down the special revenue fund because they want the details funded within the budget or because they were concerned with the overtime costs. Mr. Sullivan said that people have told him that they did not understand the wording in the articles. Mrs. Bridle said that it is making her nervous that we have funded 75% of the special details, and now with the revenue that will be coming in from the schools that will be supplementing additional details. Mr. Barrington said that it is likely that the funds from the schools will be reserved for details because the town has no control over emergency conditions that could warrant additional details. The town can be more discerning over what details are filled. If the funds from the schools are not needed at year end, they will be used to offset the tax rate.

Chief Wrenn joined the Board and explained that the details are a safety issue because the officer working at the details are giving their complete attention to the traffic and the safety of the construction workers, while the construction workers need to give 100% of their attention to the work that they are doing. He pointed out that in addition to road construction details, officers are used in night clubs to avoid problems, events such as road races or private receptions where the officer assists with traffic or noise control. Mr. Pratt said that safety is a major concern.

Chief Wrenn said that he understands that people are concerned when they see the overtime that officers have earned, but it is important to realize that the overtime earned is a result of services that were provided to the town. Mr. Sullivan said that he agreed that there should have been officers assisting with traffic at the road race this past weekend. Chief Wrenn said that the organizers had requested officers, but due to the uncertainty with the budget he asked that they utilize volunteers at the intersections.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the Board approve the MS-2 as prepared.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Precinct Commissioners

The Board of Selectmen congratulated John Kane on his recent election as a Precinct Commissioner and commended Skip Windemiller for his fifteen years of service to the Precinct.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Re-Appointment of Boards and Committees

Conservation Commission

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to reappoint Ellen Goethel, Peter Tilton and Bonnie Thimble to the Conservation Commission for three year terms.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Cable Committee

Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED that Joe Bouchard be re-appointed to the Cable Committee for a three year term.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Heritage Commission

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that MaryAnne McAden and Roger Syphers be re-appointed to the Heritage Commission for three year terms; that Bonnie McMahon be appointed as a regular member of the Heritage Commission for a three year term and Richard Reniere be appointed as an alternate to the Heritage Commission for a three year term.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mosquito Control Commission

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that Richard Reniere be appointed to the Mosquito Control Commission for a three year term.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Recreation & Parks Advisory Council

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that William Morrissey, Suzanne Roy, Charlene MacDonald be re-appointed to the Recreation & Parks Advisory Council for three year terms.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Highway Safety Committee

The Board noted that Robert Ross is requesting to be re-appointed to the Highway Safety Committee and Mr. Dean Ellis has requested to be appointed to that position as well.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED that Robert Ross be re-appointed to the Highway Safety Committee for a three year term and that Robert Pratt be appointed as an alternate to the Highway Safety Committee for a three year term.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Insurance Review Committee

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that John Tortorice, Bill Hayes and Brian Warburton be re-appointed to the Insurance Review Committee for one year terms.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Library Trustee Alternates

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that Dorothy Gooby and Mary Lou Heran be appointed as alternate Library Trustee's for one year terms.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

IV. MINUTES

The minutes of March 22, 2004 were accepted as written.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Coin Operated Amusement Permits

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen approve the consent agenda.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (8:02 PM)

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman

